

the author of the article. This was being held against Ms. Loyd's confirmation. The author of the article is Jessica Toglia, senior program manager of JFF. Unless this is a *nom de plume*, Amy Loyd had nothing to do with the article that was cited to block her confirmation for this position.

So then I looked further. There are acknowledgements on page 7. Ms. Toglia thanks 10 different people who gave her ideas and thoughts that she put into these six pages. Amy Loyd's name isn't among the 10.

There are then 28 footnotes and references citing articles and other pieces of scholarship that were written. None of them are by Amy Loyd—none.

So in response to my request as the son of a welder that we ought to have somebody at the Department of Education who values career and technical education, this well-qualified individual, who got out of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee by unanimous vote, is now being sort of tarred with the "critical race theory" label based upon an article that she had nothing to do with—nothing to do with.

I knew if I came back and stated this, like, well, who would listen, and who would care? You can assert a reason. But the reason for opposition to her nomination has nothing to do with her.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE
CALENDAR

Mr. President, I am here on another nomination, the nomination of Christopher Lowman to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment.

That position, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment, is the principal assistant and adviser to the Department on logistics and materiel readiness. The Assistant Secretary prescribes the policies and procedures for the conduct of logistics, maintenance, materiel readiness, strategic mobility, sustainment support in the DOD, supply, maintenance, and transportation—extremely important functions to have a military that works.

We are watching the Russian military bog down in Ukraine right now for a lot of reasons, but one of the reasons is that their military has not been sustained and maintained, and a lot of their equipment is bogging down.

Mr. Lowman is the person who would do this important job, and he has been pending before us since November with a vacancy in that position at the Pentagon.

Let me tell you about Mr. Lowman. He spent his entire life serving this country in the military, and I mean entire life. He was born on a military base in Germany because his father was an Army civilian. When he graduated from high school, he went to Monmouth University and then immediately joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 1984.

Since 1984—38 years—Mr. Lowman has worked first as a U.S. marine and then as an Army civil servant, totaling more than 30 years. He most recently

served as the Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff to the G-3/5/7 Directorate, which provides planning and staff management for Agencies under the authority of the Combined Arms Support Command. He served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition Policy and Logistics. He deployed as a Director of Sustainment for the Combined Security Transition Command in Afghanistan from October 2017 to 2018. Prior to that deployment, he served as the Director for Maintenance Policy for the U.S. Army in the Office of the Chief of Staff. He was the Chief, Supply and Maintenance, at headquarters, U.S. Army Europe.

He is a much awarded member of both the military and the military civil service—the Department of the Army Integrated Logistics Support Achievement of the Year Award; three Army Meritorious Civilian Service Awards; the Army Ordnance Corps Samuel Sharpe Award; the Army's Quartermaster Corps Distinguished Order of Saint Martin.

The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment is the principal staff assistant and adviser to the Department on logistics and materiel readiness. This is a most important function.

Mr. Lowman is a Virginian who has served his entire life from his birth in military families, serving this Nation as an Active-Duty marine and then as an Army civil servant.

For that reason, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 777, Christopher Joseph Lowman, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; and that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I thank the Senator from Virginia for accommodating me here and allowing me to come to the floor, and I thank him for his remarks. I only got to hear the second half of his remarks, but I thank him for his remarks and am sure that he is in earnest about this nomination.

Let me tell you why I am here, and I will be brief. I know we have a vote that is about to kick off. But let me tell you what I am in earnest about.

The crisis in Afghanistan—the attack at Abbey Gate this past August that cost 13 American servicemembers, including 1 from my home State, from the State of Missouri, their lives—is a catastrophe unparalleled in our foreign policy in my lifetime. It is my firm conviction and it is also a promise that I made to the family of the fallen marine from my State that we should do—this Senate should perform its oversight functions related to the cata-

strophic withdrawal from Afghanistan and in particular the events leading up to that attack at Abbey Gate that resulted in the deaths of those servicemembers and the deaths of hundreds, I am afraid—hundreds—of civilians and many hundreds of other Americans left behind.

I have come to this floor before many times now to ask the Senate to hold accountable those who planned and led or failed to lead, in some instances, this operation leading to the attack at Abbey Gate, leading to that catastrophic loss of life, and leading, I am afraid, to the disastrous turn in our foreign policy, the effects of which we continue to feel.

So it is my humble but earnest request that the Senate perform its basic oversight functions, and, very briefly, let me mention one.

U.S. Central Command ordered a report of the events leading up to the Abbey Gate attack that we learned of in February. February 8, I believe, we learned that that report had been completed. It is several thousand pages long. I have the barest summary of it here.

My staff and I have been through all of it, the thousands of pages. They had over 169 interviews that U.S. Central Command conducted, again, to try to understand how we got to this crisis point leading up to and including Abbey Gate.

We have not had a single hearing in the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee on this report. Now, I applaud Central Command for carrying out the report, for ordering it, for putting it together, but we should be learning what we can and holding accountable those who need to be held accountable. Who has been fired? No one. Who has been relieved of duty? No one. And if you read the report—and I commend it to my colleagues. If you read the report, you will see individual after individual, commanders on the ground warning that we are not prepared, that the administration was not prepared to get civilians to safety in Kabul; warning that the planning was not adequate; warning that there were dangers.

So, Mr. President, I ask again that the committee do its basic oversight job, perform its basic function, hold a hearing on this report, hold accountable those who failed in that catastrophic withdrawal from Afghanistan. Until that time, I am going to continue to ask that the Senate observe regular order in leadership positions in the Department of Defense.

And for those reasons, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I respect my colleague's right to object, obviously. But I would say that while the Senator from Missouri raises very valid concerns, none of those concern this nominee, Christopher Lowman, and none of his concerns are addressed or

enhanced by leaving the Pentagon without an Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment during a war in Europe where the U.S. military is playing a very important role.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON COLORETTI NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Coloretti nomination?

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas and nays have been requested.

Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON).

The result was announced—yeas 57, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 113 Ex.]

YEAS—57

Baldwin	Hassan	Peters
Bennet	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Booker	Hirono	Sanders
Brown	Kaine	Schatz
Cantwell	Kelly	Schumer
Cardin	Kennedy	Shaheen
Carper	King	Sinema
Casey	Klobuchar	Smith
Collins	Leahy	Stabenow
Coons	Lujan	Sullivan
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Tester
Cramer	Markey	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murkowski	Warnock
Feinstein	Murphy	Warren
Gillibrand	Murray	Whitehouse
Graham	Ossoff	Wicker
Grassley	Padilla	Wyden

NAYS—41

Barrasso	Hagerty	Risch
Blackburn	Hawley	Romney
Blunt	Hoeben	Rounds
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Braun	Inhofe	Sasse
Burr	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Capito	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Lee	Shelby
Cornyn	Lummis	Thune
Crapo	Marshall	Tillis
Cruz	McConnell	Toomey
Daines	Moran	Tuberville
Ernst	Paul	Young
Fischer	Portman	

NOT VOTING—2

Cotton
Menendez

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PETERS). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

NOMINATION OF C.S. ELIOT KANG

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise today to express my support for the nomination of Dr. Eliot Kang to be Assistant Secretary of State for International Security and Non-Proliferation, ISN.

At a time of increasing concern about the potential use of chemical or biological weapons in Ukraine by Rus-

sia, it is vital the United States have a Senate-confirmed official in place to counter these dangers, as well as other nuclear threats. ISN leads the State Department's efforts to halt the spread of weapons of mass destruction—nuclear, chemical, and biological—as well as the means to deliver them. We need a Senate-confirmed expert at the helm to coordinate prevention and response with the Ukrainian Government, our allies, and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Dr. Kang is eminently qualified to do just that. He has the substantive expertise to lead ISN and advance U.S. national security interests. During his 18-year career at the State Department, Dr. Kang has worked on a wide variety of nonproliferation issues. This includes the denuclearization of North Korea, international efforts to halt the spread of chemical weapons, and nuclear safety. He has held senior positions in ISN, where he currently serves as Acting Assistant Secretary, and served as the Department's most senior official for Arms Control and International Security.

But because of Republican delays he has not yet been confirmed, despite the fact that he was first nominated 341 days ago. Think about that—that was nearly a year ago—and he has not yet been confirmed.

The delays and obstacles facing nominees on the Senate floor and in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee are hampering our national security. Each day that goes by without critical national security posts being filled does a disservice to our country and our national security interests. Dr. Kang could have and should have been confirmed long ago.

I strongly support confirming Dr. Kang, and I respectfully urge my colleagues to join me in advancing his nomination, along with all of the foreign affairs nominations pending before this body.

VOTE ON KANG NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Kang nomination?

Mr. DURBIN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON).

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 114 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Baldwin	Booker	Cardin
Bennet	Brown	Carper
Blumenthal	Cantwell	Casey

Collins	Leahy	Schatz
Coons	Lujan	Schumer
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Shaheen
Duckworth	Markey	Sinema
Durbin	Merkley	Smith
Feinstein	Murkowski	Stabenow
Gillibrand	Murphy	Tester
Hassan	Murray	Van Hollen
Heinrich	Ossoff	Warner
Hickenlooper	Padilla	Warnock
Hirono	Peters	Warren
Kaine	Reed	Whitehouse
Kelly	Romney	Wyden
King	Rosen	
Klobuchar	Sanders	

NAYS—46

Barrasso	Grassley	Risch
Blackburn	Hagerty	Rounds
Blunt	Hawley	Rubio
Boozman	Hoeben	Sasse
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Burr	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Capito	Johnson	Shelby
Cassidy	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lankford	Thune
Cramer	Lee	Tillis
Crapo	Lummis	Toomey
Cruz	Marshall	Tuberville
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Ernst	Moran	Young
Fischer	Paul	
Graham	Portman	

NOT VOTING—2

Cotton
Menendez

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HASSAN). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

FOREIGN POLICY

Mr. LANKFORD. Madam President, a lot of Americans are tracking day by day what is happening in Russia and Ukraine, as we watch the Russian Army continue to be able to roll its way through Ukraine and, city by city, pummel innocent people—so, literally, to shell homes, apartments, businesses; to level whole cities to the ground for the sake of Russia's aggression.

This Congress and this body in particular, in the Senate, have spoken out often on this issue. I am grateful that the President has engaged to be able to apply sanctions, to be able to cut off purchases with Russia, to be able to slowly open up the weaponry that we are giving to the Ukrainians, as they continue to ask for more. They are looking for help. The Oklahomans whom I talked to want us to provide help.

But it is ironic, and some people may not know, that while we are isolating Russia in every way that we possibly can, right now, this administration is working with the Russian representatives to be our spokesmen to Iran negotiating a revised nuclear deal with Iran. We are not doing face-to-face negotiations with Iran. We are working through the Russian representative to represent our beliefs to the Iranians.

Now, if anyone in this room could say they trust the Russians to represent our values at the table with Iran, please, rise, because we don't and we shouldn't, and it makes absolutely no sense that a revised nuclear deal is